

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Oakland United Methodist Church Inventory Number: AA-296

Address: 5540 Muddy Creek Road, Churchton, MD, Anne Arundel County

Owner: Oakland Methodist Church, 5981 Franklin Gibson Road, Tracy's Landing, MD 20779

Tax Parcel Number: 11 Tax Map Number: 74

Project MD 468 from MD 255 to Snug Harbor Road Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no yes Name: Date:

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria X A __ B X C __ D Considerations: __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F __ G X None

Is property located within a historic district? X no yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed?: X no yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Description:

The Oakland United Methodist Church was previously surveyed in 1978 by the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning. Since the time of that inventory, the structure has not undergone any changes and the description from 1978 remains thorough and accurate.

Significance:

Anne Arundel County runs along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay from urban Baltimore in the north to rural Calvert County in the south. The Patapsco, Magothy, Severn, South, and West Rivers cut deep into the county from the Chesapeake forming its eastern edge into a series of peninsular necks and giving it over a hundred miles of coastline. As part of the Tidewater Plain, Anne Arundel is moderately hilly adjacent to its main streams in the east and levels off into rolling countryside towards the west. The first settlers came to this land in 1649 when a group of Puritans fleeing persecution in Virginia established Providence on Greenbury Point. Within a year they had been joined by enough people that the Maryland General Assembly established the county. The boundaries of the county

Prepared by: Kelly Steele Architectural Historian SHA

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D **Consideration** A B C D E F G None

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date _____

Reviewer, NR Program

Date _____

Oakland United Methodist Church

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changed in 1659 when land was taken to form Baltimore County, and in 1851 when the county divided to form Howard County, and again in 1919 when part of the county was added to Baltimore City.

Anne Arundel developed as an agricultural community with many large plantations providing a diversified economy based on tobacco, grain production, and some fishing. While the plantations were outnumbered by small farms worked by owners, the plantation owners set the social standard for the county and included many indentured servants who worked out their time, established small households and built them into great estates. Due to tobacco production, Anne Arundel peaked economically during the decades immediately preceding the American Revolution. Following the war, a period of decline occurred as Baltimore replaced Annapolis as the state's main port and the county's soil could no longer produce enough tobacco to sustain the previous growth. During the 1830s and 40s, the county underwent a brief agricultural renaissance when farmers began applying lime to the depleted soil, but the early nineteenth-century trends of declining productivity, population decline, and general stagnation continued. This trend began to reverse during the Civil War when prices for agricultural goods were high and the presence of Union troops in Annapolis provided a strong market for county produce. Following the war the county continued to do well and railroads developed through the area providing access to the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore.

By the early twentieth century the introduction of artificial fertilizer helped rejuvenate the agriculture in the county and also, the first of what would become scores of summer communities were built. Following the Second World War, improved highways to Baltimore and Washington opened parts of Anne Arundel County as suburbs of those cities. Such changes have taken Anne Arundel County from a self-contained agricultural and maritime society to a progressive, urban community.

The Oakland United Methodist Church stands in a portion of Anne Arundel county that was part of the Parrish Grant from Lord Baltimore, surrounded by the West River and the Chesapeake Bay. This area has an irregular shape, indented by many creeks and inlets, was originally referred to as "The Swamp," and was first inhabited by the Conoy Indians. By the mid-1600's a group of Quakers settled the area and received large land grants. While the Quakers were a big influence in the early years of the area, their influence eventually died out and another religious group emerged, the Methodists. Farming and oystering provided the economic base for the residents through the 18th century, with many large farms. However, following the Civil War, many holdings were broken up, thus leading to an influx of new settlers who took advantage of the opportunity to buy land. Beginning in 1832, the West River was added to the Maryland Steamboat Company's run to Baltimore. By 1834 there were runs twice a week, and as the years went by the number of steamboat runs to West River increased and more landings were built in order to facilitate larger volumes of produce.

In addition to fishing and agriculture, providing for summer boarders became a huge industry by the late 1800s. Nearly every home owner took in summer boarders and a number of boarding hotels appeared through the area. With the advent of the first paved roads in 1920, the nature of the area changed drastically as "city people" started moving in. A large number of houses were built in waterfront developments along the Bay and West River. At first much of this new population constituted summer residents only. However, as mobility increased, the area provided permanent family homes for commuters to the adjacent cities.

National Register Evaluation:

While the Oakland United Methodist Church does represent the religious history of the area, it does not derive from the period of primary significance of Methodist religion in the area. In addition, the current structure replaced a previous church that was constructed in 1869. As a later construction, the church can not convey this aspect of area history. Thus, the structure does not possess an association with significant events or trends, and is not eligible under Criterion A. The structure is not eligible under Criterion B either. Research did not identify any known association with significant persons. Similarly, the structure is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. While the structure does characterize a Gothic Revival style religious building, modern additions have compromised the structure's

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integrity. In addition to this loss of integrity, the structure is not a complete or elaborate example of Gothic Revival architecture. While it does possess simple versions of some basic identifying features including a steeply pitched roof and vergeboard gable decoration, its simple design and minimal use of traditional Gothic elements does not fully depict the style. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, so it is not eligible under Criterion D. According to the Criteria Consideration guidelines, the structure is not eligible under Criteria Consideration A, and the other six Criteria Considerations do not apply. Thus, the Oakland United Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, as defined by the criteria of eligibility in 36 CFR 60.

PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**I. Geographic Region:**

- ☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☒ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930- Present
☐ Unknown Prehistoric
☐ Unknown Historic

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☒ Religion
☐ Social Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:Category: BuildingHistoric environment: RuralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): Religion/religious facilityKnown Design Source: None

This is a detailed topographic map of the Oakland area in Maryland. The map shows the following features:

- Geography:** Contour lines indicating elevation, the Muddy River flowing through the center, and several creeks including John's Cr, Shady Cr, and Chalk Cr.
- Towns and Settlements:** Galesville, Chalk Point, Back Bay Beach, Avalon Shores, Churchton, and parts of Gaithersburg and Silver Spring are visible.
- Roads:** Major roads include Route 255 (Galestown Rd), Route 468 (Shady Side Rd), and Route 256 (Chalk Point Rd). Other roads shown are Holly Rd, George's Lane, and Shady Side Rd.
- Landmarks and Facilities:**
 - Oakland Methodist Church (marked with handwritten address 5540 Muddy Creek Road, AA-2960)
 - Franklin Memorial Church
 - Chesapeake Yacht Club
 - Warner's Pt
 - Shadyside Airfield
 - Church Rec Area
 - Cemeteries (Cem.)
- Other Features:** A "Rec Area" (Recreation Area) near Galesville, a "Camp" near Chalk Point, and various smaller structures and buildings throughout the developed areas.



1. 21. 92

2. 20. 1992

3. 20. 1992 Muddy Creek Rd, gravel bar

4. 20. 1992 Annapolis, Maryland

5. 20. 1992 Steele

6. September 2000

7. SAA

8. 10. 1992 From Muddy Creek (MD468) north to main bridge

9. 10F4



1. AA-296
2. Oak and Methodist Church
5540 Muddy Creek Rd, Churchton
3. Anne Arundel, MD
4. Kelly Steele
5. September 2000
6. SHA
7. South, main, facade of original structure
8. 2 of 4



1. AA-296
2. Oakland Methodist Church
5540 Muddy Creek Rd, Churchton
3. Anne Arundel, MD
4. Kelly Steele
5. September 2000
6. SHA
7. East Facade of newer portion, taken from north
on Chalk Point Road
8. 3 of 4



1. AA-296
2. Oakland Methodist Church
5540 Muddy Creek Road, Chardon
3. Anne Arundel, MD
4. Kelly Steeb
5. September 2000
6. SHA
7. North, Rear of structure taken from Chalk Point
Road facing south
8. 4 of 4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA-39-U-A

map 30

MAGI #0202964508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Oakland Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

northwest corner of Chalk Point Rd. and Rt.468, Churchton

CITY, TOWN

Churchton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

United
Oakland Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Churchton, MD

20733

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel

Liber #: SH 4

Folio #: 159

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-296

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(c. 1840)
The Oakland Methodist Church is located on the northwest corner of Chalk Point Rd. and Route 468, Churchton. The structure is a starkly simple one room, frame, Gothic Revival Church. It is a one story rectangular building under a steeply pitched roof with overhanging, bracketed eaves and a perforated bargeboard. German siding covers the building and a low brick foundation underlies it. A c. 1950 enclosed corridor connects the church to the church hall. The latter building is covered with german siding on the front, has weather boards flanks and rear; and a gable front roof. It was constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century. The church and its additions face south. An enclosed porch, with a roof similar to the main one, but without a bargeboard, extends from the center of the building.

The main entrance is through the porch on the front of the church. Three brick steps with a railing lead to eight-paneled doors.

The only window opening in the principal facade is a small occulus filled with stained glass, midway between the porch and bargeboard. Windows in the east and west sides of the porch admit light to the entrance. Four pointed arch windows with wide board frames and 4/4 light sash are in the east and west elevations of the church. A five sided apse on the rear displays a rectangular stained glass window. It appears that the roof of the apse has recently been shingled with wood.

A driveway and a bare lot with patches of grass extends from the road (Rt. 468) to the front of the church; behind it are mature trees.

There are no outbuildings.

Interior: There are many ~~paint~~^{ed} grain surfaces inside the church: the back of the double doors, window sills and wainscot in the porch, and the wainscot in the church. The walls and ceiling in the church proper are tin embossed with a ~~trefoil~~^{quatrefoil} design.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

100-246

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The cornerstone of this small, frame, Carpenter Gothic Church was laid in 1869, and the building was completed in 1892. It was the second church on the site. The older church, built in 1869, was moved to Cedar Grove; it burned a few years later. Services in the late 19th and 20th centuries were held on alternate Sunday afternoons. Horses and buggies were tied at the fence around the church yard and many people walked several miles to attend services and revivals; the latter, held in the summer, were an important part of church life. The porch on the front of the church was added c. 1910.

The interior retains its turn of the century pressed metal walls and ceiling, stamped with a design of Gothic arches and quatrefoils. The wainscot of the church and the porch are grained to simulate oak, which was the wood chosen for the altar, altar rail and pews.

The congregation carefully maintains the character and appearance of their church.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

100th Anniversary -Oakland United Methodist Church 1869- 1969

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marion Norton Carroll- Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel Ct. Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Arundel Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



AA-
296

aa-39-4-a
(map 30)

Oakland Church
South elevation

Ambhatt 8/75



AA-
296

AA-39-U-a
(map 30)

Oakland Church
South elevation

Ambratt 1915